

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9167–S9218

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3396–3410. **Page S9213**

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 64, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605. **Page S9216**

REMOTE Act: Senate passed H.R. 5545, to extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID-19 pandemic. **Pages S9216–17**

Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1404, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the ‘Ghost Army’, in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II, and the bill was then passed, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S9217–18**

Adopted:

Schumer (for Markey) Amendment No. 4894, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S9217**

Schumer (for Markey) Amendment No. 4895, to amend the title. **Page S9218**

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 88 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 499), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, after taking action on

the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Page S9167**

Withdrawn:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 4880 (to the House amendment), to add an effective date. **Page S9175**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Schumer Amendment No. 4881 (to Amendment No. 4880), to modify the effective date, fell when Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 4880 (to the House amendment) (listed above) was withdrawn. **Page S9175**

Gawande Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. **Page S9200**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, December, 17, 2021. **Page S9200**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9200**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9200**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 16, 2021. **Page S9218**

Lopez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S9200**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. **Page S9200**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9200**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9200**

Ohta Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S9200**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S9200**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9200**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9200**

Urias Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. **Page S9200**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S9200**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9200**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9200**

Frimpong Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. **Page S9201**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9200**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Beckering Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S9201**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Kumar Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan. **Page S9201**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Thurston Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S9201**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Menendez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. **Pages S9201–02**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Dimke Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Pantaleon Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Emanuel Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Japan. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Markell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Japan. **Pages S9202–03**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Crocker Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the

Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S9203**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Page S9203

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9203**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9203**

Gitenstein Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador. **Page S9203**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S9203**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9203**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9203**

Bauer Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco. **Page S9203**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador. **Page S9203**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9203**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9203**

Burns Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China. **Page S9203**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco. **Pages S9203–04**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9203**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9203**

Cronin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland. **Page S9204**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China. **Page S9204**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Escobari Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. **Page S9204**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland. **Page S9204**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Knapper Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Page S9204

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Gifford Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador.

Page S9204

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Sanchez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Page S9205

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador.

Page S9205

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9205**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9205**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 500), Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S9175**

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 501), Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire. **Pages S9181–82**

Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring June 19, 2026. **Page S9205**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Errol Rajesh Arthur, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Leslie A. Meek, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Carl Ezekiel Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Jessica G. L. Clarke, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Nina Morrison, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

William S. Pocan, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Jennifer Louise Rochon, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Army. **Page S9218**

Messages from the House: **Page S9209**

Measures Referred: **Page S9209**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S9209**

Executive Communications: **Page S9209**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S9209–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9213–14**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S9214–15

Additional Statements: **Page S9209**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S9215–16**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S9216**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S9216**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today.
(Total—501) **Pages S9175, S9181–82**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:15 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9218.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program, including S. 2471, to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and S. 2404, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, after receiving testimony from Michael Sprayberry, Hagerty Consulting, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina; Matt A. Mayer, Opportunity Ohio, Columbus; and Carlos E. Martin, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3375, to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Viqar Ahmad, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Commerce.

U.S. AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Committee on Commerce: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States airline industry, after receiving testimony from Doug Parker, American Airlines Group, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas; Gary C. Kelly, Southwest Airlines Co., Dallas, Texas; Scott Kirby, United Airlines Holdings, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; John Laughter, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia; Sara Nelson, Association of Flight Attendants—CWA, AFL—CIO, and Mike Tretheway, InterVISTAS Consulting Inc., both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and